

had a special ring to it. It wasn't Jones or Smith or Thompson. It was Majors. . . . In his senior year Majors led Tennessee to an undefeated season. He ran, passed, punted, and even blocked. He was one of college football's best punters."

Johnny and his wife Mary Lynn live in Knoxville, where he is still known not only as a former player and coach but as a leader in the community. Mary Lynn, a remarkable and talented woman in her own right, and my wife Betty Ann have become friends over the last few years. The Majors' collective contribution to our state and nation are an inspiration to all those who know them.

One other thing: Coach Majors, as President of the Nike Coach of the Year Clinic, has promoted and assisted the United States Marine Corps in coaching clinics across America. Johnny Majors is a dedicated patriot.

Madam Speaker, I also want the House to hear from our colleague, Mr. SHULER, who had the honor of playing for Coach Majors at the University of Tennessee.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOHNNY MAJORS

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, accompanied by my colleague Mr. TANNER, to honor the achievements of Johnny Majors, former football coach of the University of Tennessee.

For 16 years, from 1977–1992, the University of Tennessee enjoyed the privilege of having Coach Majors pace the sidelines of Shields-Watkins field. Throughout his many years at the University of Tennessee Coach Majors maintained a high level of success, winning three championships in arguably one of the most competitive sports leagues in the country.

As a young man, I remember the excitement surrounding Coach Majors' visit to my home town of Bryson City, North Carolina. He was seen by many in my community as the epitome of football. He came to visit me and my family to talk about the possibility of me coming to the University of Tennessee. We expected his visit to focus primarily on the game and the football program at UT. However, Coach Majors' concerns were more about the importance of a strong education, the responsibility of leading by example, and his insistence that regardless of where you might be in your life, UT alumni are always part of the UT family.

Coaches often play a vital role in raising the youth of a community. Not only do they instill values such as hard work and dedication, but can also teach young people valuable life lessons of honor and good will. Coach Johnny Majors not only bred success on the field, but encouraged his student athletes to conduct themselves with integrity and honesty. To have a man of his character coach me was a true honor and a privilege.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. TANNER for his thoughtful statement regarding my coach and friend, Johnny Majors. I ask my colleagues join me in celebrating this great man's accomplishments, both on and off the football field, and off the football field.

ENHANCED VISITOR EXPERIENCE FOR TOURISTS AT YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today supporting a project that provides an enhanced visitor experience for tourists at Yosemite National Park and an additional administrative site for employees outside the Park boundaries.

Yosemite is the crown jewel of the National Park System; each year over 3.5 million visitors travel to Yosemite to enjoy the scenic vistas, hiking, and Valley destinations. This proposed legislation authorizes the National Park Service to purchase up to 18 acres of land in Mariposa County, from willing sellers, for visitor and administrative uses. The proposed site for this center will be at the junction of State Highway 140 and State Highway 49, located in Mariposa just outside the Arch Rock entrance to Yosemite National Park. A visitor center at this location will not only provide Yosemite National Park with an opportunity to enhance their visitor services, it will be a tourist destination for travelers in the gateway community of Mariposa as well.

This non-controversial bill enjoys a broad array of local support including the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corporation, and County Tourism Bureau, in addition to the current Superintendent of Yosemite National Park and the Yosemite Fund. Additionally, this authorizing legislation is PAY-GO neutral and does not authorize direct spending.

Madam Speaker, I am eager to lend my support to a project that will benefit the local economy of Mariposa by providing tourism opportunities as well as enhancing the visitor experience at Yosemite National Park. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation as it moves through Congress.

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATIONS' SOLDIERS AND VETERANS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, each year on Memorial Day, Americans take a day to express their gratitude and honor the memory of the men and women who have given their lives in service to our nation. This experience of patriotism and civic consciousness is a time to reflect on the bravery and commitment of those who have answered the call to serve and our responsibilities to uphold the ideals for which they fought.

In Congress, this is a time to recommit ourselves to caring for those who served our country and their families. They have fulfilled their obligations to the American people, and we must fulfill our obligations to them.

That's why I am pleased Congress has provided historic increases of 60 percent since 2007 for health care and other services for our

veterans. In fiscal year 2010, Congress increased funding by \$15.3 billion over last year's level and \$747 million above the administration's request. Congress and President Obama also passed a law to fund veterans' medical care one year in advance to ensure timely and uninterrupted funding for veterans' health care system.

To support our active duty personnel, I supported a 3.4 percent military pay increase, a \$3 billion increase in funding for Defense Health Programs, and a \$3.46 billion increase for equipment in the field.

While I am pleased Congress is providing robust funding to care for our military and veterans, much work remains to be done such as ensuring increased resources for PTSD and other mental health issues, resolving the continued backlogs of veterans' claims, and concurrent receipt.

The courage of our military and our veterans is an inspiration to us all, and we thank them all for their service and sacrifice to protect our freedoms. The thoughts and prayers of our entire nation are with the men and women serving today, those who have bravely served, and the families of those whose ultimate sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to our nation's brave soldiers and veterans.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt surpassed \$13 trillion.

To put this in perspective, on January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10.6 trillion.

This means we have increased the debt by 18 percent in just 16 months. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans. There is simply no way that we can maintain this type of spending without destroying our Nation.

We know what happens to individuals that bury themselves in debt. We know what happens to companies and institutions that fail to maintain balanced books. And we know what happens to nations that spend this irresponsibly. We need only look overseas to the effects of such disastrous fiscal policies. But for some reason, a reason that wholly escapes me, the current administration and the majority in Congress continue to move forward with their ruinous plans.

There is no reasonable national policy that can be implemented that assumes a national debt increasing by 18 percent in just 16 months. I think the fact that the House doesn't appear to be considering a budget this year proves that the Majority knows that as well but wants to hide the magnitude of the problem from the American people. We need to rein in this spending and address our deficit, our debt, and preserve our future.